



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOMALIAN NATIVE PLEADS GUILTY TO \$4 MILLION IN UNLICENSED MONEY TRANSFERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to operating an illegal money transmitting business that wired nearly \$4 million to the United Arab Emirates and elsewhere.

Ahmed Abdi Nur, 30, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortzie D. Smith this morning to the charge contained in a Nov. 16, 2004, federal indictment. **Nur**, a native of Somalia and a naturalized citizen of the United States, operated Amal Business Center, a retail store at 4436 St. John in Kansas City that sells groceries and clothing.

“**Nur** became a naturalized citizen in 1999 and had already been operating an unlicensed money transmitting business in Kansas City since 1998,” Graves said. “His actions resulted in the illegal transfer of millions of dollars to locations outside the United States and received commissions on the transfers that went unreported to the Internal Revenue Service.”

By pleading guilty, **Nur** admitted that he owned and directed an unlicensed money transmitting business from Jan. 1, 1998, to July 17, 2003, in Kansas City. **Nur** operated the money transmitting service under several names – including Amal Counseling Services and Sagal Money Wire, Inc.

Among the companies **Nur** transferred money to was Aaran Money Wire Services, which was subject to a federal blocking order prohibiting it from transferring money overseas.

Nur made approximately \$4 million in deposits into several bank accounts that were opened under various names in the Kansas City area, including more than \$3 million in cash deposits. Graves added that approximately \$3.8 million of the transfers were sent to locations outside the state of Missouri, including the United Arab Emirates, as well as an account in

Minneapolis, Minn.

Nur failed to register either himself or any of his companies with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as required by federal law. **Nur** also failed to register and obtain a license from the state of Missouri to operate a money transmitting business.

Under federal law, Graves explained, **Nur** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Daniel Stewart. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html